



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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those of us who are no longer young will be glad to know the tale of Sir Guyon, and the history of that most noble maiden, Britomart, who has been adopted as a sort of tutelary saint by at least one of our great women's colleges, where she figures in window and on wall with inspiring dignity and beauty. Sir Artegall, too—how many of us could stand an examination upon his adventures? Do we know all about that sweet knight of courtesy, Calidor, or about "fairest Pastorella"? Coridon we know something about, but do we get our knowledge from Spenser? A very fine teaching in chivalry and high morality would be his who had by heart the noble gallery of portraits which Edmund Spenser has drawn, so that whoso looks thereat may see mirrored for his instruction whatsoever things are lovely and of good repute; and, that he may the better recognise that which is fair, we have painted for us, that we may abhor and avoid, such portraits as those of Duesza, Satyrane, Phaedria, and the rest. These tales are gracefully told by one who is evidently saturated with Spenserian thought and sentiment, and, though no prose version can be a substitute for the original, we think this should be a delightful introduction and foretaste.

The Official Report of the Women Workers' Conference, held at Croydon, October, 1897 (53, Berners Street, Oxford Street, 2/-). We regret that pressure of other matter has made our acknowledgment of this Report so tardy, but we should like to recommend every essay in the volume to the thoughtful and careful reading of all educated English women. The distinct literary quality of the papers makes this a pleasant task, but good writing is the last and least of the recommendations of this important Report. Among the speakers are Mrs. Alfred Booth, the President, Mrs. Temple, Mrs. Creighton, The Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttelton, Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Mrs. Barnett, Lady Vincent, Miss Caillard, Miss Clifford, and many more. The papers of the two last-mentioned ladies, on "Power in Work," and "On the Pain of the World, how to face it," are especially inspiring. Here is a passage from Miss Clifford's paper:—"And then—and this is a very noteworthy point—we must face the pain of the world with a resolute choice and determination not to spend our lives doubting. Whenever we stand in front of a mystery which we cannot read, whether of nature, history, or experience, we have to choose whether we will still believe in Christ, and through Him in the Father, shutting our eyes to every contradiction; or whether we will believe in the contradiction and shut our eyes to the face of Christ. One or the other we must put our trust in; one or the other we must ignore. . . . Shall we trust in the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, His Father and our Father? or shall we trust in the powers of doubt, denial and darkness—the riddles of nature, of history and of experience." Among the subjects discussed are:—"The Early Care and Training of Children under the Poor Law"; "Methods of Attacking Intemperance"; "Young Englishwomen on the Continent"; "The Dangers of the Luxury of Modern Life"; "The Responsibility and Continuity of Work"; "The Life and Training of Elementary Teachers"; "The Prison Life of Women and Children"; "The Better Organisation of the Nursing Profession"; "The Educational Side of Co-operation."

THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.]

DEAR EDITOR,—Can you recommend a book suitable to read to a little girl of eleven, on Sunday? I have made a practice of reading, or rather using as a background for talks on higher morality and simple unsectarian Christianity, various books published by the Sunday School Association, and have found them very helpful. I refer to such books as *Lessons on the Growth of Moral and Spiritual Ideas* (P. H. Wicksteed), *Elements of Morality* (Mrs. Bray), *Outline Lessons on Religion* (Armstrong), *Short Sermons to Children by Three Cousins* (the Misses Martineau), and many others, quite unsectarian. I quote these to give you an idea of the kind of book required. I have worked through all the best books published by this Association, and do not know where to turn for others. If you could give me a list in next month's *Parents' Review* I should be very grateful.

Yours truly, K. M. POWELL.

Oakridge, Dorking.

DEAR EDITOR,—I should like to recommend to the lady who wished for easy music to play for her children to dance to, a little shilling book, called *A Night's Fun with the Children* (Mozart Allen, 70, South Portland Street.)

Yours faithfully, M. T.

Hardwick Hill, Byfield, R.S.O.

DEAR EDITOR,—To my mind, the most interesting article in the magazines this month is "Gladstone's Theology," by G. W. E. Russell, in the *Contemporary*, from which I make the following short extracts:—"As a schoolboy he was honourably distinguished by simple devotion and stainless living. 'At Eton,' said Bishop Hamilton, of Salisbury, 'I was a thoroughly idle boy; but I was saved from some worse things by getting to know Gladstone.' To have exercised, while still a schoolboy, an influence for good on one of the greatest of contemporary saints is surely such a distinction as few Prime Ministers ever attained. Sixty years afterwards, a schoolfellow remembered seeing Gladstone turn his glass upside down and decline to drink a coarse toast proposed, according to annual custom, at a school dinner. . . . The blameless schoolboy became a blameless undergraduate; diligent, sober, regular alike in study and devotion, giving his whole energies to the duties of the place, and quietly abiding in the religious faith in which he had been trained. He was conspicuously moderate in the use of wine—his good example in this respect affected not only his contemporaries, but also his successors at the University; men who followed him to Oxford ten years later found it still operative; and the present Archbishop of Canterbury has told me that undergraduates drank less in the forties, because Gladstone had been courageously abstemious in the thirties."

The Rev. Lionel Ford, assistant master at Eton College, contributes an article on public school athletics to the volume of *Essays on Secondary Education* (Clarendon Press), in which he repeats the reflection "of a distinguished man on the defects of his youth." "What I regret now," said he, "is the time I spent as a boy, not on playing games, but on talking about them." *Literature* comments on the article:—

"We know all that is to be said in favour of the strenuous cultivation of athletics. What is not generally recognised is that they now form the chief subject of general interest at a public school; that they dominate its public opinion, and its moral standard; that they drive the intellectual hobbies of individuals into shamefaced obscurity; and that they are gradually killing down, for the average boy, all real interest in, all 'divine thirst' for, knowledge."

The *Spectator* (June 4), discussing the social forces that make for distinction in America, considers, that greater than political distinction, greater than the power of wealth, is the force of education. "Mr. Bryce once said with truth, that the most respected and influential men in America were the College presidents. Not one Englishman in a thousand knows who is at the head of Oxford or Cambridge; but the great mass of American people not only know who is at the head of Harvard or Columbia, they honour him as they honour no other man save the President of the Republic. . . . As with the University, so with the common school; it is a great and powerful institution, far greater than in England. . . . If you want to find any genuine aristocracy in New England, in Ohio, in Minnesota, you find it in the collegiate class, in the teachers and officers of the Universities and Colleges." This is a good omen for the future, and, together with the immense influence of the religious class, will enable the American democracy in any time of crisis to overcome the "sensual and avaricious" tendencies on which Matthew Arnold spoke so freely to the American people.

16th June, 1898.

PATER JUNIOR.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, Sec., 28, Victoria Street, S.W.

To whom all Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.

NEW BRANCHES.

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COLCHESTER.—Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, Mrs. Powell, Gt. Bentley Vicarage.

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CROYDON.—Names may be sent *pro tem.*, P. Rands, Esq., Brighty, Bensham Manor Road.

STREATHAM.

BECKENHAM.

CARLISLE.

OXFORD.

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TAUNTON.

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DUBLIN.

CARDIFF.

YORK.

HUDDERSFIELD.

BRISTOL.

LEWES.

DORKING.

Readers of the *Parents' Review* living in these districts, or having friends there, are asked to communicate with Miss Blogg.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER.—Particulars of the Cricket Club for women and children and Natural History Club Excursions may be had from Mrs. Franklin, 9, Pembroke Gardens, W. (at home Thursday mornings).

HAMPSTEAD.—On April 15th, a meeting was held at 71, Fitzjohn's Avenue (by the kind invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Pidcock). The chairman, H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., introduced the lecturer, Dr. Boulting, who read an extremely able paper on "Habit and Character." The lecturer spoke of the desirability of economy in the use of the plastic energy of brain material; of the physiological character of memory and its cultivation by association of ideas; of "mistakes" as the commencement of pernicious habit; of the effects of fatigue; of the essentially reflex nature of brain processes, and of "will" as the expression of habit. This most interesting paper will shortly appear in the *Parents' Review*.—The last meeting of the session was held on May 24th, at University College Preparatory School (by the kind permission of the headmaster, C. Simmons, Esq.) The chair was taken by C. E. Rice, Esq., the headmaster of the King Alfred School. A most enjoyable talk, "Eyes and no Eyes on Hampstead Heath," was given by the Rev. J. Kirkman, Vicar of St. Saviour's Church. The attendance was large.

FOREST HILL.—There was a large attendance on May 9th, at the Manor House, to hear Mrs. Steinthal, who kindly came down to lecture upon "Art in the Nursery." The chair was taken by the hostess, Mrs. J. Gray, who was supported by Miss Pound and the Rev. A. F. R. Bird, and others.—On June 7th, the Rev. Jeffery Johnstone gave an altogether